

REMARKS

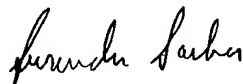
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice. By the present preliminary amendment the claims have been amended to no longer recite any improper multiple dependencies.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--4. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 wherein an additional parameter corresponds to the eccentricity of the outline.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 wherein an additional parameter corresponds to the circularity of the outline.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 wherein at least one additional parameter uses a region-based representation.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 6 [or claim 7] wherein an additional parameter is based on Fourier descriptors.

10. (Amended) A method of representing a plurality of objects appearing in a still or video image, by processing signals corresponding to the images, the method comprising, for each object outline, determining if there are significant changes in curvature in the object outline, and, if there are significant changes in curvature of the object outline, then deriving a shape descriptor using a method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 1 and, if there are no significant changes in curvature of the object outline, then deriving a shape descriptor including at least said additional parameter reflecting the shape of the object outline.

12. (Amended) A method of searching for an object in a still or video image by processing signals corresponding to images, the method comprising inputting a query in the form of a two-dimensional outline, deriving a descriptor of said outline using a method as

claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 11] claim 1, and comparing said query descriptor with each descriptor for stored objects using a matching procedure using the CSS values and the additional parameters to derive a similarity measure, and selecting and displaying at least one result corresponding to an image containing an object for which the comparison indicates a degree of similarity between the query and said object.

15. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 [or claim 14] where $a=1$ when there are no CSS peaks associated with either outline and $a=0$ when at least one outline has a CSS peak.

17. (Amended) An apparatus adapted to implement a method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1.

18. (Amended) A computer program for implementing a method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1.

19. (Amended) A computer system programmed to operate according to a method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1.

20. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable process steps for implementing a method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1.--